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Throckmorton, Douglas C

From: Stockbridge, Norman L
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2002 6:54 AM
To: Temple, Robert; Curry, Anthony; Prettyman, Buddy
Cc: Throckmorton, Douglas C
Subject: Review of Metabolife cases

Dr. Throckmorton asked me to update you folks with our review of 44 adverse events with Metabolife for which there was some paper documentation.

We asked two primary medical reviewers from the Cardio-Renal Division, both with years of review experience, to go through these cases independently and to rate the likelihood that the events were related to Metabolife, according to the following scale: can't tell, definitely not, unlikely, possibly related, probably related, or definitely related.

Neither reviewer considered any case definitely related. One reviewer considered 4 cases probably related. Twenty-six cases got at least one vote as possibly related and 7 of them were considered possibly related by both reviewers.

Dr. Throckmorton and I together went through the 4 cases with a vote of probably related and the 7 cases considered possibly related by both reviewers. None of these cases are well documented, generally not even as good as spontaneous adverse event reports. Most have indications of multiple treatments which cannot be excluded as contributors to the complaints. None of these cases had a rechallenge.

Among these 11 cases, there are two cases of allergic reactions, both of which we considered probably related to Metabolife.

There are also 4 cases of atrial fibrillation and one of supraventricular tachycardia, none of which is particularly compelling in isolation. The incidence of AF is on the order of 1% in this age range, so this might or might not represent a real signal. We have asked the Office of Drug Safety to tell us what drugs have been associated with atrial arrhythmia, and we expect to hear back from them within the next couple of weeks.